

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 6. 1712.

NOW, good People, I fancy you will be convinc'd, that our Jockits yonder at *Utrecht*, know as well how to put a good Price upon their Horse as the *French King* — Now we have the Demands of the Confederates made Publick, as before we had the Demands of the *French*, and I believe no Man will say they have been wanting to themselves in it, any more than *Monsieur* was before.

Really this gives me a hint, which I with our Times had Patience enough to take, and a little to put in Practice? viz. How necessary it is for People to suspend

Censuring and passing Judgements on Things before they come round, and before they come to stand one against another, to be view'd in a true light.

The *French* had only the Disadvantage of us here, in giving in their what d'ye-call-ums, as the witty *Observer* calls them, and so for a Fortnight, we have had Leisure to descant upon the Insolence, the Scandalous, and the Dishonourable, &c. which we think they deserve: Well, now we have given in Ours, and no doubt but all the Old-Women, Monks, Jesuits, and City Politicians in *Paris*, will take the same Freedom.

dom with Us; and if they had a *Parliament*, perhaps Address the King, that for the Emperor to Demand all that was render'd to *France* by the Treaty of *Munster*, which the *Confederates* never pretended, is a most *Scandalous*, *Insolent*, and *Disbonourable* Proposal; and thus the World runs round.

Now out of both these *Extremes*, some Medium is to be found, or else they will never set their *Horses* together; and this is the Work of a Treaty, and indeed this is the Reason of a Treaty, and therefore our warm, passionate Heads, that have been Raving at the *French* haughty Proposals, ought before to have consider'd, as they may now see, that all these *Generals* are only a Formality of Treaties, usual in all such Negotiations, to put in all they can think of at first, to make their Demands specious, and then enter upon Treaty of Abatement, and Concessions, to see if they can bring Things to a Point.

I must confess, the Emperor seems more sincere in these Things, and more Generous than the *French* King, for that after his List of High Demands, he honestly anticipates the Reproach of Exorbitance, and tells them he has put in all these Demands but for Form sake, which he handsomely expresses in these Words.

However, his Imperial and Catholick Majesty, will not refuse to enter upon farther Negotiations in Concert with his Allies, if the Plenipotentiaries of the most Christian King offer hereafter in his Name more Reasonable Propositions than the former.

And again, in another Paragraph, it is said,

His Sacred, Imperial and Catholick Majesty reserves to himself the Power and Faculty of Enlarging, interpreting, and also of Altering the present Demands, as it shall be thought fit, for the Good of

the Peace, and the publick Security. Done at Utrecht, March 5. 1712.

What is all this, but to say I have made these Demands according to the Example of *France*, as Great and as Extensive as possible; but I shall be very willing to abate of those Things, and come to a Reasonable Conclusion upon a Treaty?

And this is the Way we ought to Understand all that has been done, and if we had had Patience, we should have done so before; the Thing before them is now passing over, these needless, and I must own, I think, insignificant Formalities, to come to a serious close Application, to putting an End to the Issue of Blood that has confounded *Europe* for above 20 Years: The *French* King, abating proud, haughty extravagant Things, must content himself to disgorge, must stoop to his Fate, must make Reparation for the infinite Wrongs, Oppressions and Rapine he has been the Occasion of in *Europe*, and must be content to let the Allies be Judges in some Measure, of what is, or is not Satisfactory and a Security to them and to their Dominions, and to their Commerce; he must be Content to wave his Ambitious Attempt at the Universal Government of God's Creation, and leave Him that made it, to depute the Authority to as many Princes and States as He thinks fit.

The Emperor must wave a little of his high Pretensions to the *Spanish* Monarchy, and rather confine himself to be very Great, and Greater than any single Power in *Europe*, which all his Allies are willing he should be, than push at making himself so great as to become a Terror and Uneasiness to all the rest; he must be content to part that Monarchy, which it cannot be safe for *Europe*, either he or the House of *Bourbon* should enjoy; and in that Partition, I must confess, I think, he ought to be content the Protestant Powers of *Britain* and *Holland* should have such Shares, as should hereafter put them in a Posture to be a Match for

for France, or for any other Power which may hurt or Assault them.

These Things are now the Subject of the Treaty, and I cannot but think these Flourishes on both Sides being a little over, they will go about the rest with less Obstruction than they did before, at least, we shall see what Steps will be taken; we shall see what the French aim at, what they design, and whether any Peace may be probable in the End.

I am loth to upbraid our honest People here, with the former Mistake which they so freely run into, viz. That the Peace was made here, That the Articles were Agreed on, That it was Sign'd in October last, and the like; I'll place these Things to the Account of the Unhappy Ferment of the Time; I wish we may give ourselves less Occasion to own ourselves mistaken in this manner, and prevent our being mistaken in the like Cases for the future, at which, a little of that Sovereign Specifick call'd Patience, would effectually bring to pass.

Let our Jockies at Utrecht go on, they seem to understand their Business well enough, and both Sides have shew'd that they know how to ask enough—I make no question, but the *Smithfield Bargain*, as they say it is, will go on, and especially if you can but Jockey them a little more in the Field; this Attempt at Arras is a good Step, and doubt not will be a good Spur in the Sides of our French Jade, to Spur her on to the Market; if the Campaign pinches him, he will comply; let us not be in haste, he has more need to buy our Horse than we have to sell him, tho' I own we have need enough too; but as I said at

first, let us fight on, and Treat on; the better you fight him, the easier he will Treat; the more you beat him in the Field, the more he will abate in his haughty Proposals, and every Battle you win in Flanders, gains a Kingdom at Utrecht; thus you may, no doubt, come to a Good Peace at last.

I cannot but believe that every honest Man desires a Good Peace; he that would have a Scoundrel, Clandestine, Dishonourable Peace Concluded, Unsafe, Precarious, and endangering a New War, he is a Traytor to his Country, an Enemy to the Queen, a Favourer and Abettor of France, and of a French Pretender; this I have all along said, and say again with all the Freedom I am able, and I Challenge all those who would raise a Clamour at this Paper, and thereby a Reproach upon its Author, to shew one Word in it that ever favour'd of a French Interest, or in Favour of a Dangerous Peace; at the same Time, that I am still against Erection of a New Exorbitance in the House of Austria, in the Room of the Old Exorbitance we are pulling down in the House of Bourbon; and to that end, that I cannot believe it safe to the Protestant Interest, to give the whole Spanish Monarchy to the Emperor; this I see no Reason to Recant; I abhor the Thoughts of it; I believe to do it, would be to betray the Protestant Interest to the Jesuitical Tyranny of a bigotted Party, and to give up God's Church into the Jaws of the Lions and Wolves which have formerly devour'd them—And that from this Principle, and with no other View, I have oppos'd it, I am content should be written on my Grave.

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